

# Couple brings the outdoors inside

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It's all is the ideal time to relax on a deck, patio, or porch and watch summer's green give way to red and gold.

The stately four-square brick home at 336 S. 24th St. demonstrates just how versatile a porch can be. The original owner developed a number of variations on these popular structural features, and subsequent residents brought ingenuity to converting them to fresh roles in domestic life. A broad, brick front porch facing the Chadwick grounds is eye-catching, and previews the handsome foyer, which owners George Staerker and Sue Allen praise as "a wonderful place to meet guests. It's never crowded."

The entry, which announces the home's dominant Arts and Crafts style, is also bright and airy, thanks to the sidelights and transom of the massive front door and a north window highlighted by a piece of "bullet glass" the pair fought with them when they moved in four years ago.

"We're told it's from a pub in England," Sue says, and it creates a prismatic effect.

George finds English elements throughout the house, including a shield motif in the foyer's chandelier, which has greeted visitors since the house was constructed in 1910.

The tiny crests are repeated in the dining room's chandelier and wall sconces. The dining room also features vertical wood accents reminiscent of Tudor half-timbering.

The green tile surrounding the living room fireplace and the strong, simple lines of the mantel show the influence of the Arts and Crafts movement, which, as George notes, had its ori-



The home at 336 S. 24th St., is a prairie style house. The room over the driveway is a converted covered porch now used as a computer room.

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gins in England.

Just off the dining area, the former sun porch now serves as a galley kitchen. Although this conversion was completed 10 to 15 years ago by another owner, the long tiled work space and ample storage are well-suited to George's enthusiasm for cooking.

The design is convenient, he says, and "cooking in here you never feel confined because you're facing the bank of windows and all the greenery

outside."

The pair note neighbors with similar sunrooms have, for the most part, "turned them into TV rooms" rather than making the most of the access to light and to the garden setting.

George and Sue share the fondness of previous owners for creating a sense of the outdoors within their home. One of their favorite decorative elements is a mural by C.H. Buxman that was added to the dining room in 1941.

"It's one of a handful in Quincy by this artist," George says. "We particularly like it because it reminds us of Spokane," where the couple lived for several years.

In the foyer, George points out a recurring "I" shape that appears in the square wooden columns framing the doorway to the living room and is also rendered in concrete on the home's façade to contrast with the brickwork.

"Repeating motifs was an idea of Frank Lloyd Wright's to bring the outdoors inside," he says.

The second floor features its own two porches: A small balcony facing the landscaped backyard, and a large summer porch — enclosed years ago — that extends over the driveway.

The latter now serves as a computer room and temporary quarters for the kittens Sue fosters for the Quincy Humane Society. An employee of the Society, Sue appreciates having a snug and safe place to "bring my work home with me."

The couple has completed a good deal of remodeling on the second floor, including "his and hers bathrooms," which afford Sue the convenience of an attached dressing room.

On the main floor, George turned a small, underused room into a pantry serving the kitchen and dining room. In another enjoyable project, he complemented the attractive landscaping of the backyard by adding a fountain near the spacious patio.

"We appreciate the very deep and wide lot," George says. "When you're back there, you are secluded. You don't feel you are on a busy street."

That's an advantage all the owners of this residence must have recognized as they brought the great outdoors into the heart of this charming home.